

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 PA-01

PRS-01 /112 W

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R 100944Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 537

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB PINS ETUC EEC ICFTU IS GW

SUBJECT: ISRAELIS COMMENT ON ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: BRUSSELS 2181, 2237

1. LABATT DISCUSSED BRUSSELS ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH HISTADRUT INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AVRAM ALLON AND LABOR PARTY INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR ISRAEL GAT. BOTH COMMENTED THAT PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF LABOR PARTY AND HISTADRUT IS TO HAVE OBSERVERS INVITED ON REGULAR BASIS TO EUROPEAN REGIONAL TRADE UNION AND SOCIALIST PARTY MEETINGS WITHOUT REQUESTING FORMAL STATUS. THIS IS AN OLD ISSUE AND THE ISRAELIS WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT IT NOT BE RAISED PUBLICLY BECAUSE THEY REALIZE THAT REVIVING IT COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO THEIR INTERESTS.

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2. THEY DENIED SPECIFICALLY THAT HISTADRUT HAD ASKED DGB CHAIRMAN HEINZ VETTER TO PROPOSE FORMAL OBSERVER STATUS FOR THEM. GAT SAID THAT HE HAD MET WITH VETTER BEFORE THE ETUC MEETING AND HAD TOLD HIM THAT HISTADRUT WAS SATISFIED WITH RECEIVING INFORMAL INVITATIONS TO ALL ETUC MEETINGS IN VIEW OF ISRAEL'S CLOSE ECONOMIC, TRADE UNION, AND OTHER TRADITIONAL TIES WITH THE COMMON MARKET AND WITH EUROPEAN SOCIALIST AND LABOR MOVEMENTS AND NO SPECIAL STATUS HAD BEEN REQUESTED FOR ISRAEL. VETTER, ACCORDING TO ISRAELI VERSION, PRESENTED HIS EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WITH SECGEN MESHEL AND OTHER HISTADRUT OFFICIALS AS A FORMAL REQUEST OUT OF PERSONAL DESIRE TO SHOW HIS SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL.

3. IN COMMENTING ON SUBJECT OF ISRAELI LABOR PARTY TIES WITH SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN SOCIALIST PARTIES, GAT EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT ISRAELIS WILL HENCEFORTH BE AUTOMATICALLY INVITED TO ATTEND ALL EUROPEAN REGIONAL SOCIALIST PARTY MEETINGS ON INFORMAL BASIS. GAT DESCRIBED THIS ARRANGEMENT RECENTLY NEGOTIATED WITH WILLIE BRANDT AS HIGHLY SATISFACTORY TO ISRAELIS AND PREFERABLE TO RAISING QUESTION OF FORMAL MEMBERSHIP OR OBSERVER STATUS FOR ISRAEL AS SOLE NON-EUROPEAN PARTY. HE COMMENTED THAT THE SAME ARRANGEMENT WITH EUROPEAN LABOR BODIES, SUCH AS ETUC, WOULD BE DESIRABLE. TOON

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